



LOCAL 1664

# *Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters Ass'n., Inc.*

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TESTIMONY BY JOHN J. SPARKS, PRESIDENT, LOCAL 1664  
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - FIRE FIGHTERS  
PUBLIC HEARING - EMERGENCY BILL 21-96  
JULY 2, 1996

Madam President, Council Members - my name is John Sparks and I am President of the Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters Assn. I represent over 600 career fire fighters and paramedics who are affected by this legislation.

As you are aware, in 1994, the citizens of Montgomery County voted favorably in a referendum which instructed the County Council to provide binding arbitration to cover career fire fighters and paramedics in the bargaining unit. For the past several months, we have been working with the County Executive in developing legislation that is fair to the County Government and our Association and meets the electoral mandate of the citizens of Montgomery County. While this legislation does create a separate law for us, we feel it is necessary not only because of the uniqueness of our work but because this legislation combines some of the Police law and some of the current Collective Bargaining Law which now pertains to us.

Additionally, important to the County Council is that this legislation does not broaden our negotiable subjects nor does it restrict or change any of the many current management rights.

As always, our Local asks only to be treated equitably and fairly in comparison to other County public safety bargaining unit employees. We believe this legislation brings us closer to that goal and we ask the Council to approve this legislation with the agreed upon amendments.

Thank you, and I will be happy to answer any questions which you may have.